



# Dignity Votes 2022

A Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Initiative

*Through the Dignity Votes 2022 initiative, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts has invited candidates for legislative office to respond to a set of questions drafted specifically for the office. Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a state-wide coalition of aging and disability service and advocacy organizations and supporters dedicated to the systemic transformation of long-term services, support, and care to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.*

## Candidate Response – Ken Hoyt (R) Candidate for the Senate (Worcester & Middlesex District)

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**Question 1. Most Massachusetts residents know someone who has needed long-term services or care due to issues related to aging or disabilities or experienced it themselves.**

*Has anyone close to you needed nursing home care, congregate living arrangements, or home and community-based services, such as personal care assistants (PCAs)? What implications for public policy and regulatory enforcement do you draw from this experience?*

Response to Q1: No.

**Question 2. Please indicate the importance of addressing these issues regarding the provision of care and services to older adults and persons with disabilities.**

Response to Q2:

**Most important:**

- Expanding home and community-based services
- Increasing pay and benefits for direct care workers

**Important:**

- Improving quality of care in nursing homes
- Ensuring transparency of nursing home ownership
- Conducting comprehensive financial audits of nursing homes
- Expanding availability of behavioral health services for older adults and persons with disabilities
- Updating nursing home resident bill of rights

**Desirable, but not priority:**

- Transformation of nursing home operations (e.g., single room occupancy, smaller units; smaller facilities)
- Developing affordable, accessible housing

- Increasing availability of accessible transportation

**Not an issue:**

- Paying spouses as caregivers

**Brief profile of Ken Hoyt:**

Ken Hoyt has a B.S. in Finance from Syracuse University, as well as a Master's in Finance from Northeastern University. He is a Certified Financial Planner and owns a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm. He lives in Westford.

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**Dignity Alliance Massachusetts** is a state-wide, grass-roots coalition of aging and disability service and advocacy organizations and supporters dedicated to systemic transformation to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. We are committed to advancing new ways of providing long-term services, support, living options, and care while respecting choice and self-determination. Dignity Alliance works through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies to realize this vision throughout the Commonwealth.